



# Taking in the Waistband of a Skirt

How to shorten the waistband of a skirt to fit you and adjust the body of the skirt to match.

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## INTRODUCTION

How to take in the waistband of a skirt that is too large. This guide works best for skirts that are loose, like rectangle skirts or pleated skirts. It will also be best if they have a separate waistband and a lining. This guide is best for someone who already knows how to sew using a sewing machine.

The next few terms will be used in our guide:

- *seam* refers where the thread holds pieces of cloth together
- *seam ripping* means to rip the thread holding pieces of cloth together
- *seam allowance* is the distance between the stitch line and the edge of the cloth



### TOOLS:

- [Sewing Machine](#) (1)
  - [Sewing Pins](#) (1)
  - [Seam Ripper](#) (1)
  - [Measuring Tape](#) (1)
  - [Thread](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — Waistband



- Try on the skirt to see how big it is.

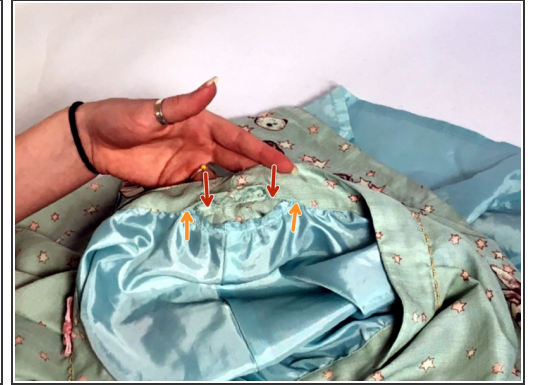
## Step 2



- Measure the amount to take in.
- Using a pin, mark the length of your measurement on either side of the side *seam*.



### Step 3



- *Seam rip* the waistband from the lining, about an inch past the pins on either side.
- ⓘ If you've never used a seam ripper before, check out this handy guide on [how to use a seam ripper](#).
- ⓘ Red arrows indicate the length of the measurement. Orange arrows indicate the length of seam ripped.

### Step 4



- *Seam rip* the waistband from the skirt.
- ⓘ *Seam rip* past the first pleat on either side of the side seam.



## Step 5



- Seam rip the top of the waistband, about an inch past your measurement on either side.

## Step 6



- Flip the outer waistband inside out.
- Pinch the waistband together at the side seam.

## Step 7



- On the waistband, pin the distance of your measurement from the side seam.
- Sew across the waistband at the location you pinned.
- ⚠ Make sure to remove the pin before sewing and back stitch at the beginning and end so the stitches don't unravel.
- Trim off the excess fabric.

## Step 8



- Repeat steps 6 and 7 on the inner waistband.
- ⚠ Make sure the two waistbands are the same length before you sew the inner one shorter.



## Step 9



- Press the *seam allowance* on the new side seam flat and fold the top and bottom down.
- Align the top edges, with the seam allowance turned to the inside.
- Stitch across the top of the waistband, right next to the edge.

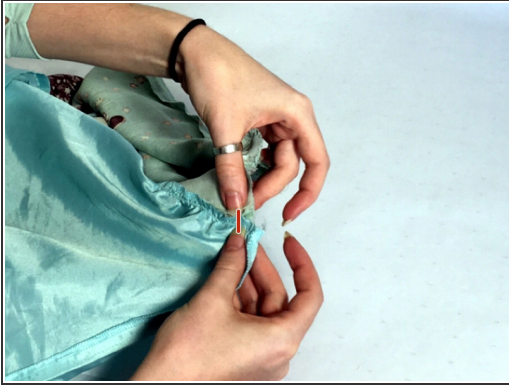
## Step 10



- Turn the skirt inside out.
- Pin the pleats of the skirt to the waistband, so the skirt and the waistband are the same length.
- ① Try to follow the location of the original pleats, but make them deeper to account for the excess fabric.
- Stitch the skirt and waistband together.



## Step 11



- Mark where the seam line on the waistband matches up with the lining.
- Stitch from that point to the seam line on the lining, forming a slight curve.
- Trim the excess fabric off.

## Step 12



- Stitch the lining to inner waistband.
- Turn the skirt right side out.
- Top stitch the inner and outer waistband, catching the seam allowance from the other side.

⚠ Make sure the seam allowance is on the waistband side of the seam so the top stitching will secure it.

## Step 13



- Stitch both waistbands together, following the side seam from the outside.

Your skirt is now finished! Wear it with pride.

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